Long-term Data Preservation and Re-use: the work of the Archaeology Data Service

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Archaeology Data Service
University of York

15/05/2019



ARCHAEOLOGY Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

Outline

- Political Context Open Data
- Challenges:
 - Digital Preservation
 - Resource Discovery and Interoperability finding
 & joining up fragmented and diverse data sets
- Opportunities:
 - Digital dissemination & electronic publication



Open Data in Europe

13 June 2013 –
European
parliament
ratifies new rules
on Open Data includes cultural
heritage data



P

Legal notice | Privacy | RSS | English (en)

Blog of Neelie KROES

Vice-President of the European Commission

European Commission > The Commissioners (2010-2014) > Neelie Kroes > Blog



« Previous post | Blog | Next post »

EU unlocks a great new source of online innovation

June 13th, 2013 | Number of views :9685

Today the <u>European Parliament</u> voted to formally agree new rules on open data – effectively making a reality of the proposal which <u>I first put forward just over 18 months ago</u>, and making it **easier to open up huge amounts of public sector data**. This is about the data that public authorities can lawfully put out there – a huge wealth of **information about your public services**, **how administrations are spending your tax euros**, **geographical or cultural information**, and the like.

There's a huge benefit to opening up. Once information is out there, there is so much you can do with it. Today many of you are familiar with apps that tell you where you are and where you need to go – based on public data from <u>Global Positioning System</u> (GPS) satellites. But it goes beyond that: the boost from easier access is of the order tens of billions of euros. In short, this is an amazing raw material for innovation; we're basically sitting on a goldmine.

But to make a real difference you need a few things. You need prices for the data to be reasonable if not free – given that the marginal cost of your using the data is pretty low. You need to be able to not just use the data: but re-use it, without dealing with complex conditions. And you need a wide range of data from across the EU, with consistent rules to make it easier to handle (like being machine-readable,

RECENT POSTS

Money, money, money

Safeguarding the open internet for all

Mobile roaming and the four stages of grief

EU's Member States agree on measures to improve broadband investment

Guest blog – how the next big billionaire company can come from Europe

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TAGS



2013: G8 Open Data Charter



18 June 2013: "a new era in which people can use open data to generate insights, ideas, and services to create a better world for all."



The Five Principles

Policy paper

G8 Open Data Charter and Technical Annex

Published 18 June 2013

- 1. Open Data by Default
- 2. Increase Quality and Quantity for re-use
- 3. Usable by All
- 4. Releasing Data for improved Governance
- 5. Releasing Data for Innovation



BARCHATE HEYPreservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

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 - Resource Discovery and Interoperability finding & joining up fragmented and diverse data sets
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 - Digital dissemination & electronic publication

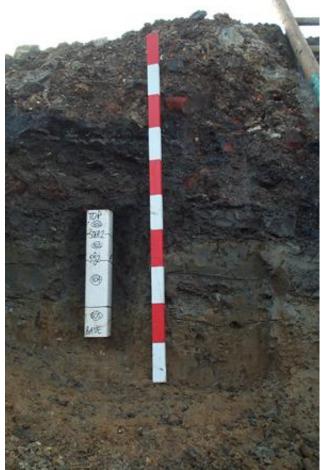


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Digital Data and Heritage Management

- Archaeology is destructive
- Concept of "preservation by record"
- Comprehensive records of field work are imperative



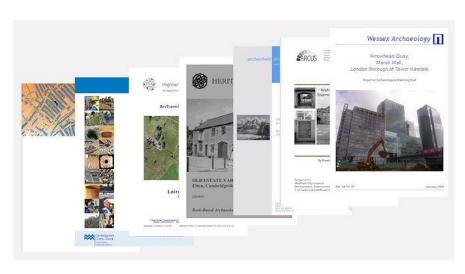


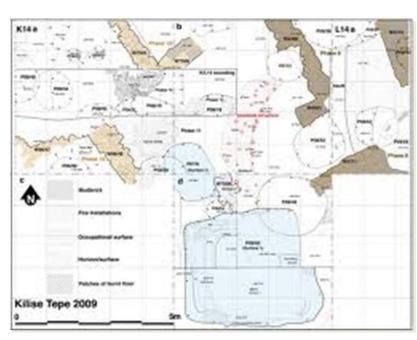
15/05/2019

Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

Digital Data and Archaeology

- Published data is limited
- Majority of data recorded in grey literature
- Data is not easily searchable
- Assess to data is difficult

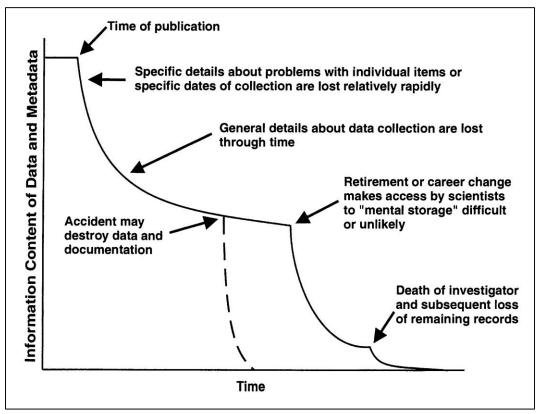






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Information entropy



Michener, W.K., Brunt, J.W., Helly, J.J., Kirchner, T.B. and Stafford, S.G. 1997. Nongeospatial Metadata for the Ecological Sciences. Ecological Applications. 7: 330-342.

ads

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BARCHATE HEEP Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

Digital Data Challenges

Fragile as the archaeological record we excavate

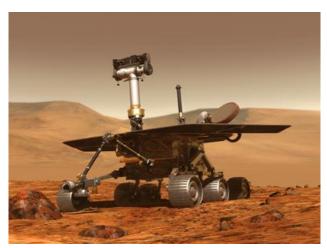
Still archived as objects rather than computerised information



Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

Case Study: NASA

- NASA sent two Viking Landers to Mars in 1975
- Data recorded on magnetic tape
- Climate controlled environment
- In the 1990s they could not decode the formats used.
- Track down old printouts and retype everything.





Photos: Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



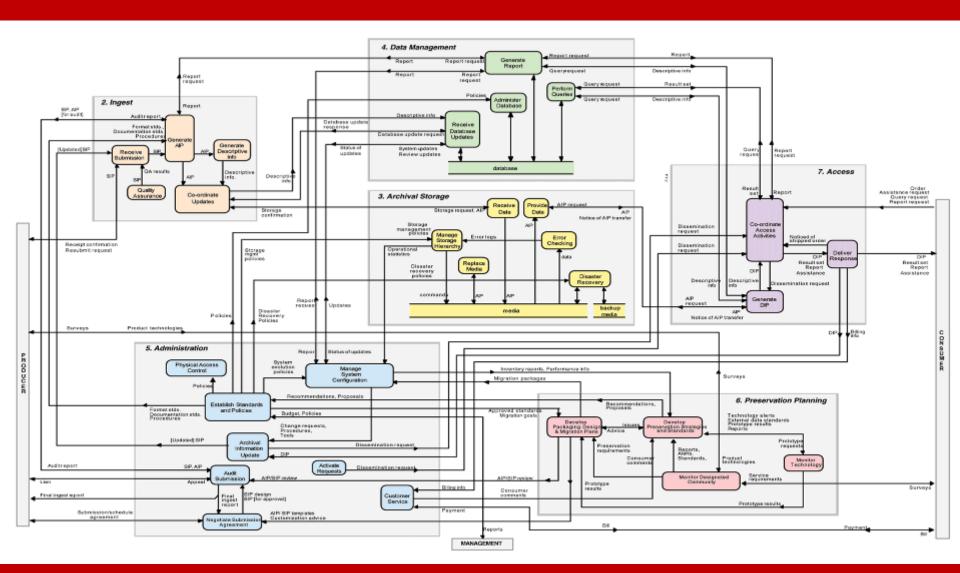
BARCHATE PRESERVATION and Re-use of Archaeological Data

"Digital information lasts forever - or five years, whichever comes first."

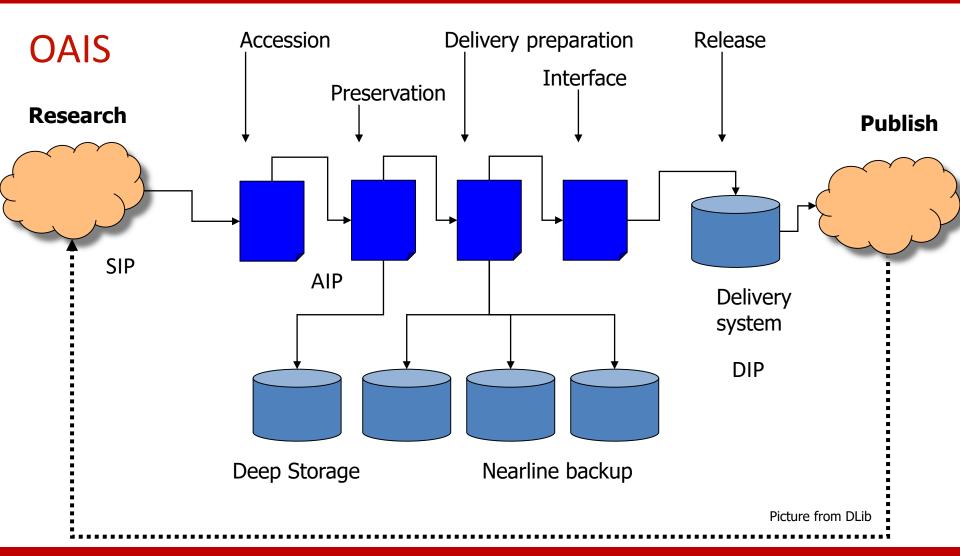
(Jeff Rothenberg, RAND Corp., 1997)



Open Archival Information System (OAIS)









Challenges for Archaeology in the Digital Age

The Archaeology Data Service

- Set up in 1996
- Based within the University of York
- 15 staff
- Business model based upon charging policy
- Data Seal of Approval
- Received Digital Preservation Coalition's Decennial Award in 2012
- Feb 2016: 10Tb; 2,054,846 files; 18,505
 recorded processes





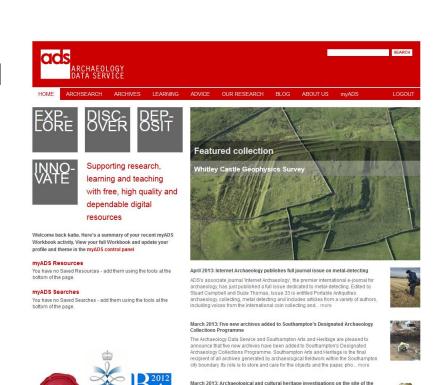
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BRITH THE Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

The Archaeology Data Service

"Supporting research, learning and teaching with free, high quality and dependable digital resources"

- Collects and preserves datasets
- Provides easy and free access to datasets
- Provides guidance and support to data creators



nd cultural heritage investigations on the site of the London 2012 Olympic and

acs archaen expreservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

....the archaeological record could be decaying faster in its digital form than it ever did in the ground

...the Newham case study

Archive:

6432 individual files
1500 excavation reports
700 database files
1200 geophysics files
200 separate projects
approx. 150 excavations

Lessons:

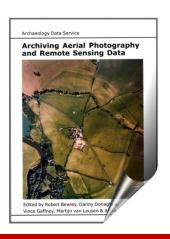
Physical Media not the main problem Software problems (migration) Data to information (documentation) Plan for re-use Forward planning is much cheaper

Preservation from the outset

BARCHASE NEEP Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

Guides to Good Practice

- GIS
- CAD
- Geophysics
- AP and Remote Sensing
- **Excavation and Fieldwork**
- Virtual Reality





Archaeology Data Service / Digital AntiquityGuides to Good Practice

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Digital Archiving

- · About these Guidelines
- · How to use these Guides
- What is Digital Archiving?
- · Archival Strategies
- o The Project Lifecycle
- · Planning for the Creation of Digital Data
- · Project Documentation
- Project Metadata
- Data Selection: Preservation Intervention Points
- · The Project Archive: Storage and Dissemination
- · Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights
- Basic Components
- Documents and Texts

This new and revised series of Guides to Good Practice have been produced as the result of a two-year collaborative project between the UK Archaeology Data Service, and Digital Antiquity, in the US. The project has encompassed important revisions of the existing six ADS Guides as well as the development of entirely new documents covering areas such as marine survey, laser scanning, close-range photogrammetry, digital audio and digital video. The project has involved previous Guides authors revising existing content alongside new authors, from both Europe and the US, also contributing to the development of the guides into new themes and areas.

The project has been undertaken in collaboration with the Digital Antiguity initiative, a US-based project with the aim of enhancing the preservation of and access to digital records of archaeological investigations. A major aim of the Guides is to provide the basis for archaeological project workflows that will create digital datasets that can be archived and shared effectively by Digital Antiquity's tDAR archive and repository in the US and by the Archaeology Data Service in the UK. The development of the Guides involves close collaboration with teams in the US at both the University of Arkansas and Arizona State University.

Other ADS projects have also fed into the revision and development of the Guides. ADS involvement in the European VENUS project, has formed the basis of a guide focussed on marine survey. In addition, the incorporation of findings from the ADS Big Data, project, together with the revision of the existing guide on aerial photography and remote sensing data, has seen a significant contribution to the guides from English Heritage

Previous versions of the ADS/AHDS Guides to Good Practice have been archived and are still available on the old Guides to Good Practice a page.

View the full new Guides to Good Practice Table of Contents













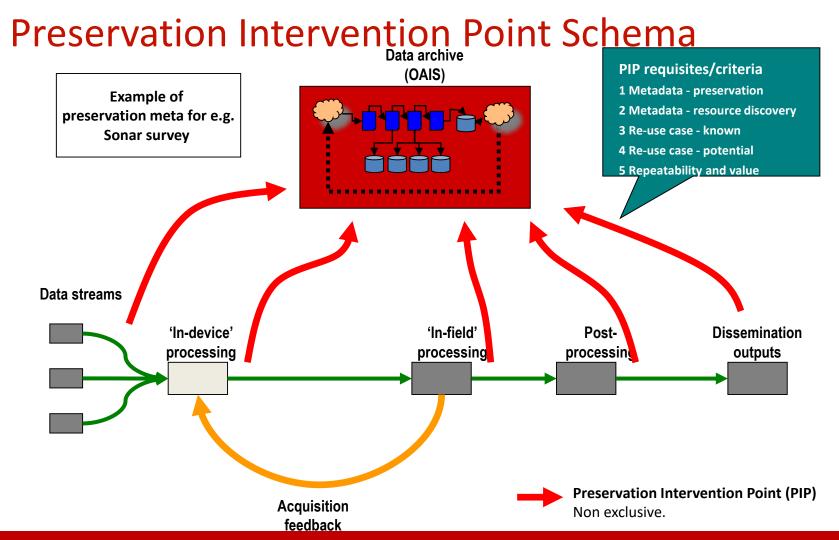






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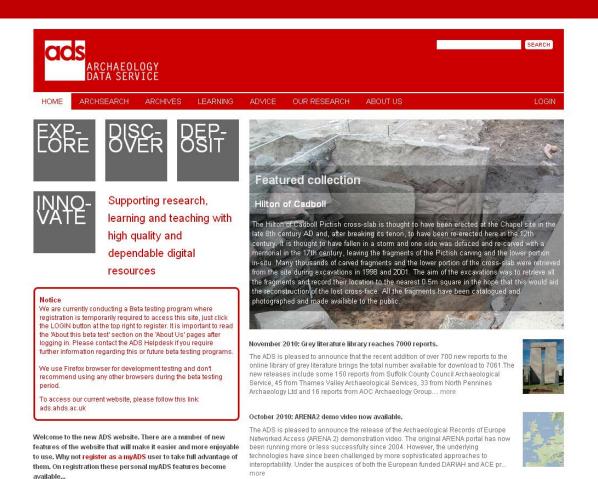
- Challenges:
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BREEN THE Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

ADS Website



Workbook

Using the tools at the bottom of each page save your favourite resources and regular searches in the myADS Workbook.

History

Your recent exploration of the site and the archives is automatically saved in your myADS History.

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

October 2010: Limestone Cropmark Landscapes archive released.

The ADS and English Heritage are pleased to announce the release of the Archaeological Cropmark Landscapes of the Magnesian Limestone project archive by Ian Roberts, David Berg and Alison Deegan. The project, funded by the Aggregates Lewy Sustainability Fund between March 2005 and March 2007, was devised to investigate the prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological landscapes of the eastern p... more

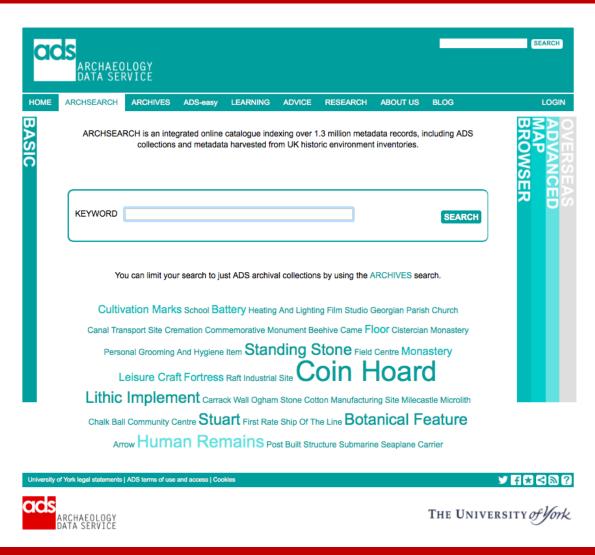




BRITH THE Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

ArchSearch

Allows users to search by key words: "Type and Hope"





BARCH TEMES Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

ArchSearch

Facetted browse of 1.3 million records

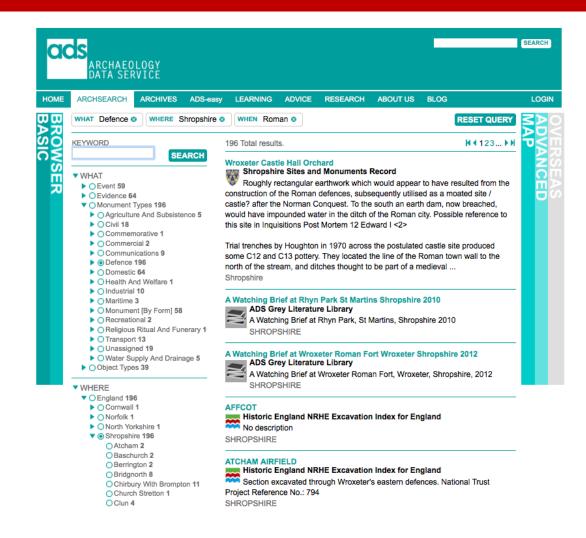




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ArchSearch

Narrow results by facets

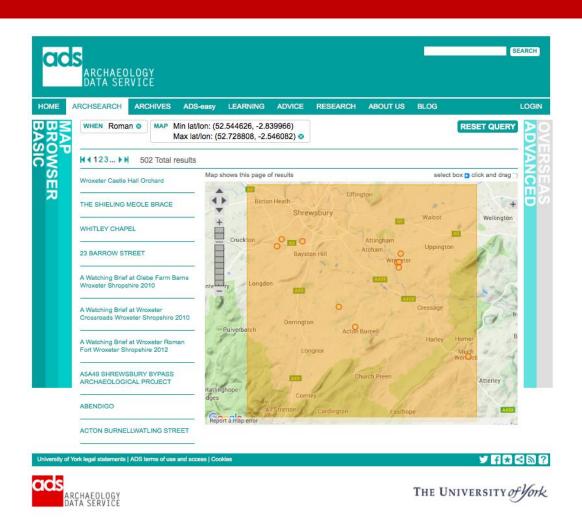




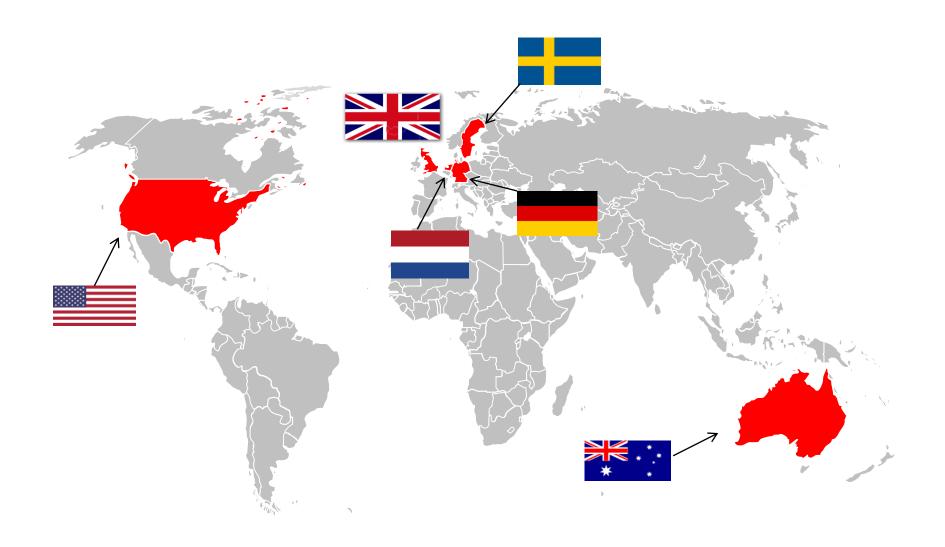
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ArchSearch

Search by location

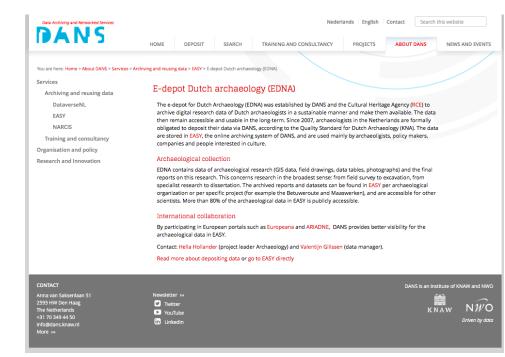


National Preservation Infrastructures



Netherlands: eDNA

- 2004-6 pilot study DANS & Leiden University
- 2007 eDNA
- 2 members of staff, plus DANS infrastructure
- 2015 20,000+ fieldwork reports



Sweden: SND

- Swedish National Data Service, University of Gothenburg
- 2012 first archaeological archives, in collaboration with Uppsala University – GIS files, Östergötland
- Swedish Rock Art archives



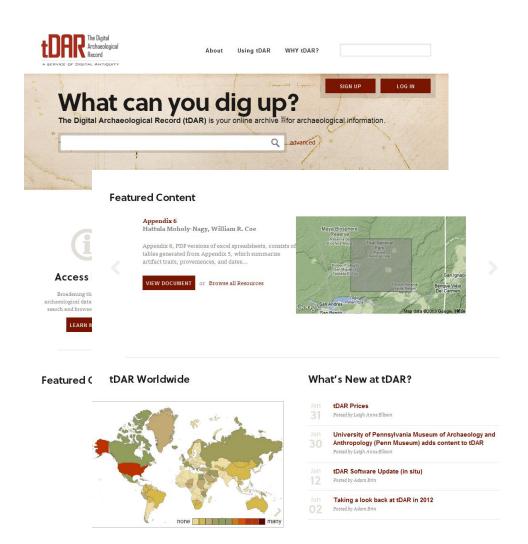
Germany: IANUS

- 2012 DAI scoping project
- Initial staff of two
- 2015 Implementation phase – now 4 staff



United States: tDAR

- 2009+
- Mellon start-up grant
- Based Arizona State University
- Digital Antiquity consortium
- 6 staff members



Hungary

- No official national digital repository as yet
- 2016: 1700+ sites on line via ARIADNE - all metadata translated into English
- Includes grey literature, CAD drawings, digital photos, drawings, spreadsheets, database tables, GIS, 3D models etc
- Uses Hungarian National Museum protocols



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English \$

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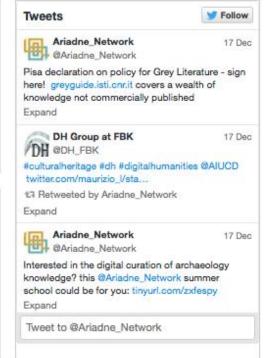
About Ariadne

Read More

ARIADNE brings together and integrates existing archaeological research data infrastructures so that researchers can use the various distributed datasets and new and powerful technologies as an integral component of the archaeological research methodology. There is now a large availability of archaeological digital datasets that, together, span different periods, domains and regions; more are continuously created as a result of the increasing use of IT. These are the accumulated outcome of the research of individuals, teams and institutions, but form a vast and fragmented corpus and their potential has been constrained by difficult access and non-homogenous perspectives.

Latest News See A	
Jan 4 2016	Call for EAA 2016
Dec 14 2015	CHNT 21 - Calls
Nov 24 2015	Landscape Reconstruction
Nov 10 2015	ARIADNE at Digital Heritage 2015

Events	See A
Nov 28 2016	IKUWA6
Aug 30 2016	EAA 2016
Apr 6 2016	SAA 81st Annual Meeting
Mar 29 2016	CAA Conference 2016



Project consortium



PIN Scri - Polo Universitario "Città di Prato" - Coordinator

Italy



Data Archiving and Networked Services

Netherlands



Deutsches Archäologisches Institute – German Archaeological Insitute

Germany



UK

UK

MDR Partners Athena Research Centre

Greece



Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche

Italy



Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H.

Austria



The Discovery Programme LBG

Ireland



Swedish National Data Service

Sweden

CSIC • incipit

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio

Spain



Znanstvenoraziskovalni Center Slovenske Akademije Znanosti In Umetnosti

Slovenia

Glamorgan Morgannwg

University of Glamorgan

UK

NOK

Hungarian National Museum/National Heritage Protection Centre

Hungary

The Cyprus Institute Limited

Cyprus

Introduction

Consortium

PIN - Coordinator

ADS - Deputy Coordinator

KNAW-DANS

DAI

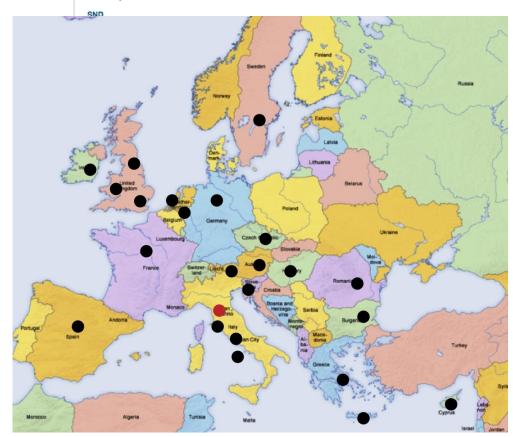
MDR

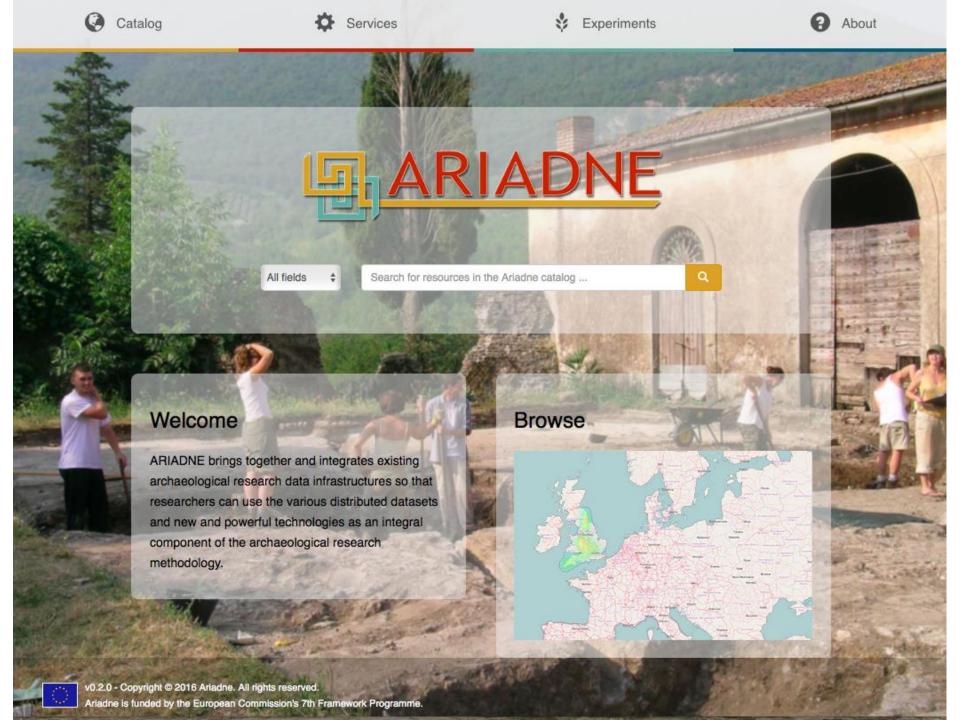
Athena-RC

CNR

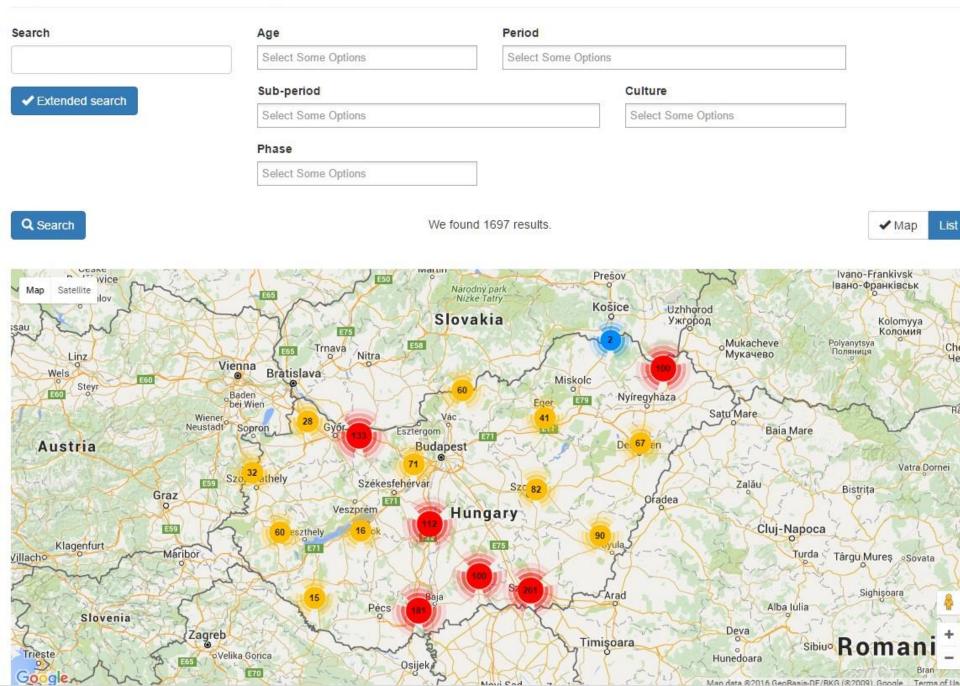
SRFG

Discovery

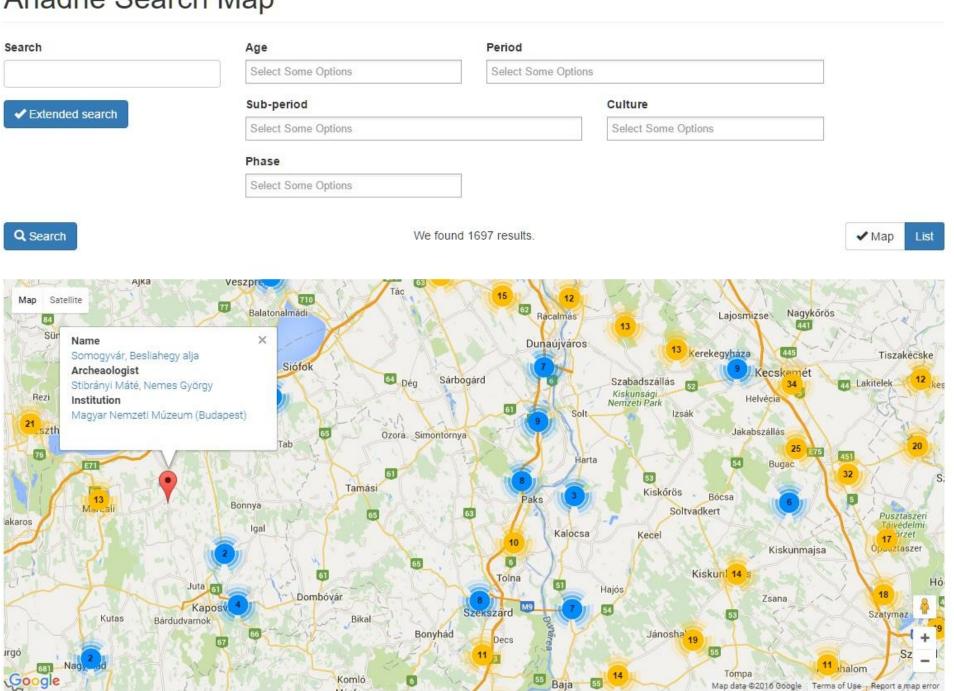




Ariadne Search Map



Ariadne Search Map





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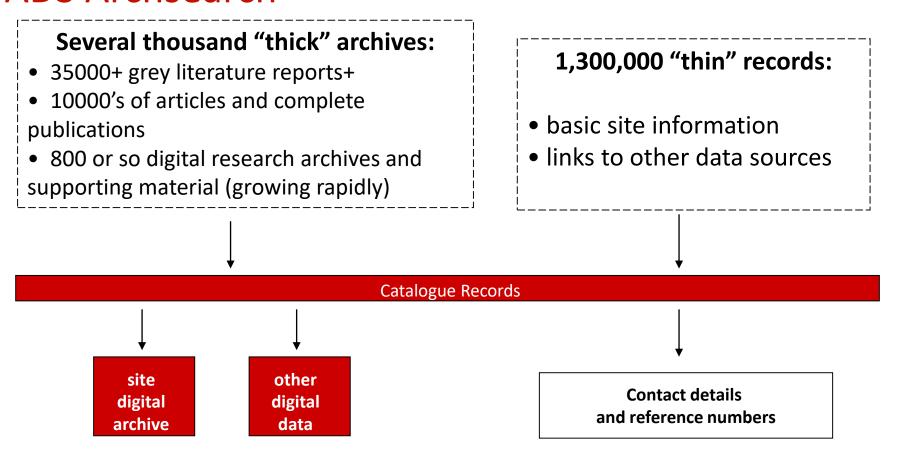
Outline

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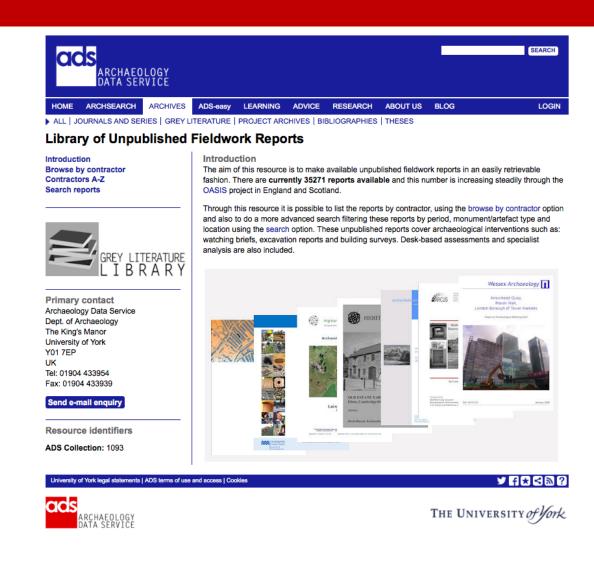
ADS Archsearch





Grey literature library

- 35,000+ reports
- Research Gap
- Public excluded
- Citation





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Unpublished Fieldwork Reports (Grey Literature Library)

Introduction
Browse by contractor
Search reports



Primary contact

Archaeology Data Service King's Manor

Exhibition Square

York YO1 7EP England

Tel: (323954)

Fax: 01904 323939

Send e-mail enquiry

Resource identifiers

oi:10.5284/1000746

How to cite using this OI

Details of Document

Bibliographic Reference and files

Blythe, K. (2005) 'The Limes, Ribchester', 2004-5/334. Oxford Archaeology North: Lancaster

Click on a button to open a file, or right click and use file --> save as from your browser menu to save the file to your computer. Alternatively, if the report is available online, click on the link to open the resource in a new window:

oxfordar2-35728_1.pdf

PDF

1013 Kb

<< display document details >>

Site details

Location

Site name The Limes, Ribchester

Parish RIBCHESTER

District RIBBLE VALLEY

County LANCASHIRE

Country ENGLAND

Grid reference SD 65861 35410 (point)

Monuments and Finds

Other details

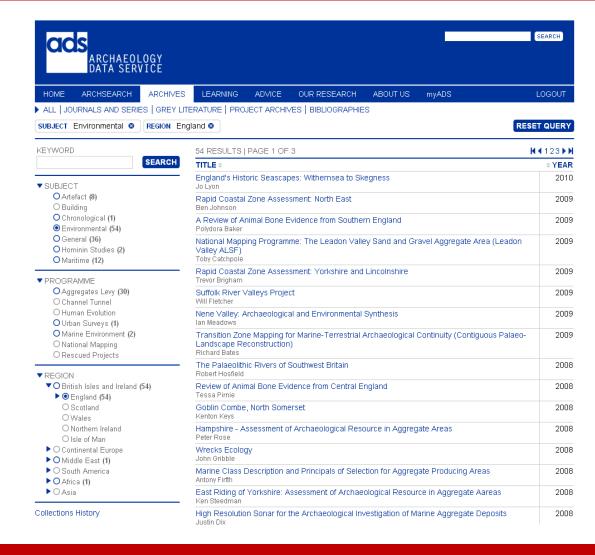
Description A4 Document
Associated identifier oxfordar2-35728





Preservation and Re-use of Archaeological Data

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Channel Tunnel Rail Link Section 1

Stuart Foreman, 2004 (updated 2009)

Introduction
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Project Downloads
Using the resource

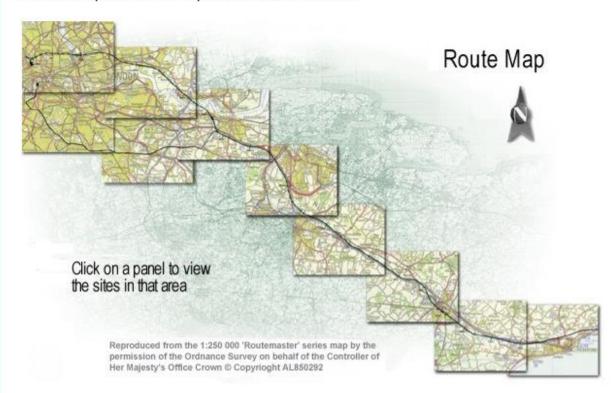
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Click on the panels of the map below to see site details.







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Framework Archaeology Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavation Archive

Framework Archaeology, 2011

Introduction Overview Query Downloads

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Archaeology unless otherwise stated



Primary contact Wessex Archaeology Portway House Old Sarum Park Salisbury SP4 6EB

Introduction

Framework Archaeology is a Joint Venture agreement between Oxford Archaeology (OA) and Wessex Archaeology (WA) to provide archaeological services to BAA. Given the potential scale of some of BAA's projects, the joint venture enables Framework Archaeology to draw on the full resources of both OA and WA, including site staff, specialist managers, administrative support, and technical facilities. This combination of resources (totalling over 300 staff) considerably reduces risk for both our client and us, and provides Framework Archaeology with a wider skills base.

Framework Archaeology is committed to a particular archaeological philosophy developed by BAA's archaeological consultants, Gill Andrews and John Barrett. This is concerned with understanding how people inhabited past landscapes: archaeology as a study of people rather than deposits or objects. This approach is at the heart of the Archaeological Policy adopted by the BAA Main Board. Framework projects are thus academically driven but undertaken within a commercial environment. In order to fulfil the approach a Framework Archaeology recording system has been



developed and is now in operation on all Framework Projects. It places great emphasis on interpretation in addition to recording and developing a historical parrative as the site is excavated (Andrews Barrett &



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Lower Palaeolithic technology, raw material and population ecology Gilbert Marshall, David Dupplaw, Derek Roe, Clive Gamble, 2002

Introduction Overview Query

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A · H · R · B

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Tel: (📆 🕶 01784 443569 😯

Send e-mail enquiry

Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 349 doi:10.5284/1000354 How to cite using this DOI

Southampton

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Pages: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |> >>

Click on the images or the links below to view more details for each biface.



IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE (344g)
Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA

Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE (480g) Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA

Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE (763g)

Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA

Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE (404g)

Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA

Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



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Defence of Britain Archive

Council for British Archaeology, 2002 (updated 2006)

Introduction Overview Download Gallery Search Project homepage

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Primary contact

Council for British Archaeology St Mary's House 66 Bootham

York

YO30 7BZ

UK

Tel: 01904 671417 Fax: 01904 671384

Send e-mail enquiry

Resource identifiers

[Return to results list]

Shell-proof type 24 pillbox.

(Source: Book 1999)

Brick-shuttered type 24 pillbox at edge of wood. With attached porch/blast wall. Faces SW. In excellent condition. Internal access possible. A short spur of anti-tank ditch leads up to this pillbox [see UORN 8552]. Five iron picket posts are still in place in the bank on the N side of the pillbox.

(Source: Field Visit 2003/02/05)

(
Type of site	PILLBOX (TYPE FW3/24)
Location	At S corner of Hog Wood.
Area	Hinton Charterhouse, Bath and North East Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 7741 5944
Period	WW2
Condition	Good
Materials	Clay Brick, Reinforced Concrete
Recorder	Foot, William (English Heritage Defence Areas Project)
Defence grouping	GHQ Line: Green - Stop Line - Burnham on Sea to near Melksham (where it joins with the GHQ Line: Blue) and then north to the River Severn at Newnham. This line is also known as the Bristol Outer Line. Manned by VIII Corps.

DOB site S0008550 reference:

Reference 1999 Warwalks: Stop Line Green

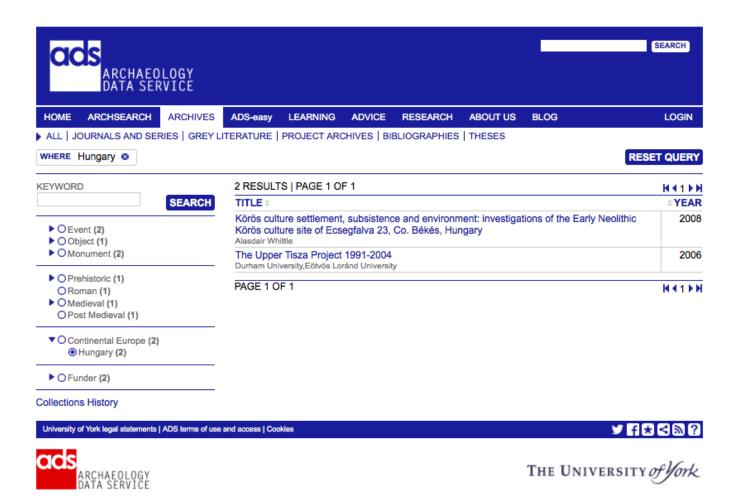
Photographs

1999 Ironside's Line

Construction, In the period 1940 1941



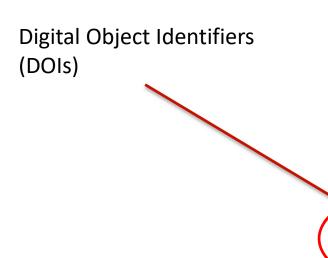
Digital Archives

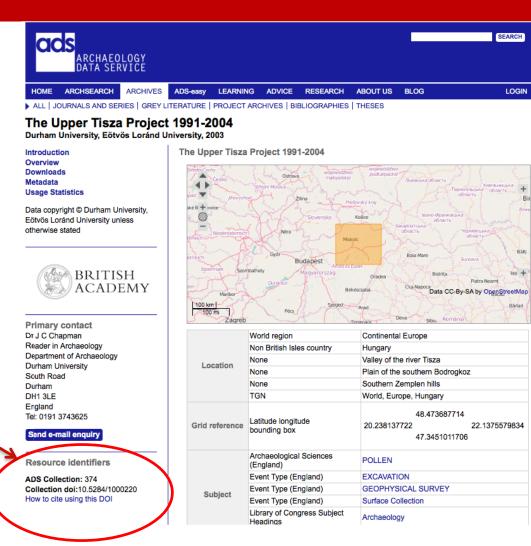




Digital Archives

Archives







Usage statistics

Körös culture settlement, subsistence and environment: investigations of the Early Neolithic Körös culture site of Ecsegfalva 23, Co. Békés, Hungary

Alasdair Whittle, 2008

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Primary contact
Prof Alasdair Whittle
School Of History and Archaeology
Cardiff University
Cardiff
CF1 3XU
Wales
Tel: 02920 875633
Fax: 02920 874929

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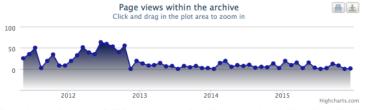




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"Making the LEAP" is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the $\overline{ ext{ICT}}$





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British Archaeological Awards 2008 Best Archaeological Innovation



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The Urban Landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan

Tim Williams, Sjoerd van der Linde, 2008

Introduction Interactive Map Downloads

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Send e-mail enquiry

Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 489 doi:10.5284/1000164 How to cite using this DOI



Introduction

Ancient Mery, in Turkmenistan, is one of the most complex and well-preserved urban centres on the Silk Roads of Central Asia. A succession of major cities at Merv started in the 6th century BC and continued until the Mongol sack of 1221AD, although Mongol occupation, a resurgent Timurid city of the 15th century, and expansion in the 19th century continues the urban sequence. Together the walled urban areas covered more than 1000 ha.

The Institute of Archaeology, University College London, has had a long collaboration with the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, focused on archaeological research and approaches to the conservation and management of the Ancient Mery Archaeological Park, which since 1999 has been a World Heritage Site.

The collection of monument photographs (dating from 1890 onwards) was first compiled by Georgina Herrmann, former director of the International Mery Project, who published some of them in 'Monuments'



of Merv. Traditional Buildings of the Karakum¹. In 2002 an expanded version of the photographic collection was published in 'The Monuments of Mery - A scanned archive of photographs and plans'2, which included a CD-ROM with low resolution digital versions of the photographs. Since 2001 the Ancient Merv Project has added new images of the monuments, showing their current condition and conservation work, and more detailed metadata for the photographs has been assembled. More information on the Ancient Merv Project can be found at the UCL website

This digital archive was undertaken in conjunction with an electronic publication through the Linking Electronic Archives and Publications (LEAP) project. The corresponding article is 'The urban landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan: Where to draw the line?' by Tim Williams & Sjoerd van der Linde, which can be found in Internet Archaeology 25.

Herrmann, G. 1999. Monuments of Merv. Traditional Buildings of the Karakum. London: Society of Antiquaries London

2 Herrmann, G. Coffey H., Laidlaw S. and K. Kurbansakhatov 2002. The Monuments of Merv - A scanned archive of photographs and plans London: University College London and British Institute of Persian Studies

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The landscapes of Islamic Merv, Turkmenistan: Where to draw the line?

Tim Williams

Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 31-34 Gordon Square, LondonWC1H 0PY. Email: tim.d.williams@ucl.ac.uk

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This article outlines approaches for interpreting the Islamic city of Sultan Kala (Merv), c. 8th-13th centuries AD, based upon aerial photographic and satellite imagery. Hierarchies of assumptions (identification of individual wall lines; which frame spaces, rooms and courtyards; which are grouped as parts of specific buildings; which are part of urban blocks) and ontologies (information about these assumptions and the variable confidence of interpretation, from the position of lines to spatial function) provide a dynamic structure for the presentation of data. interpretation and theory.

The article establishes procedures and protocols within two sample areas (selected to represent the diverse features of the urban and suburban landscapes) to:

> Explore the theory and methodology of documenting interpretation (and uncertainty) in the transcription of aerial photographic and satellite imagery Develop ontological approaches to

structuring interpretations and assumptions, within a hermeneutic model. Provide a textual and graphic narrative of the development of the areas. Establish an online forum (weblog) to contribute to the long-term project.

Explore the use of other forms of electronic archive material, in particular, how imagery and audio files can be used to develop the discussion of landscapes and buildings.



Arts & Humanities

Research Council

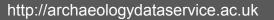
Preparation of this electronic publication and associated archive was assisted by a grant from the AHRC under the ICT Strategy programme.

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Features

This article will appeal to: those interested in the presentation of data, interpretation and theory Keywords: Merv; Silk Route; Turkmenistan; interpretation; uncertainty; aerial photographs; satellite Find more publications on the Silk Route in the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (BIAB)

© Internet Archaeology/Author(s) URL: http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue25/merv_index.html Last undated: Wed Apr 02 2008







The Urban Landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan

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Image files | GIS files | Documents | Movies | Oral Interviews

Downloads

This section contains the shapefiles and aerial photos of the GIS as well as documentation. The aerial photos are very large so previews have been provided of a common area of the images to offer a comparison of quality and processing employed.

71 Kb

GIS files Documentation:

GIS Layers PDF

Raster and World Files:

The raster images here are very large and may take a considerable time to download for some users with slower internet connections. Use the preview of the image on the left to see the quality and processing effects to determine if the image is desired before downloading. The complete TIFF and World File are zipped up and can be downloaded by clicking on the ZIP box on the right. Information on the images and the processing used can also be found in the 'GIS Layers' documentation above.

-			
PREVIEW	AP Dom-Joined and enhanced	ZIP	80 Mb
PREVIEW	ikonos	ZIP	45 Mb
PREVIEW	AP Ceri-Joined	ZIP	64 Mb
PREVIEW	Russian map	ZIP	4 Mb
PREVIEW	AP Dom-Joined	ZIP	86 Mb
for the same	AP Cerl-cut contrasted	ZIP	25 Mb

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3. A short introduction to the city of Sultan Kala

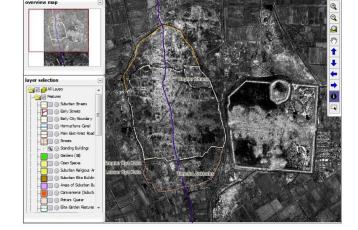
With the coming of Islam, in the 7th century AD, Merv became the capital of Khurasan (the 'eastern land') (for an overview of the history see Kennedy 1999: Williams forthcoming). In the 740s the 'Abbasid revolution began here, and while Baghdad was established as the capital of the new empire, Merv's status grew, as the capital of Khurasan, from east of the Great Desert to the frontiers of India. In the same decade, the governor, Abu Muslim, commissioned a mosque to be built alongside the Madjan Canal, which flowed about a kilometre to the west of the old city of Gyaur Kala. Thus began the new city of Marv al-Shahijan (Merv the great: today Sultan Kala) (Fig. 7 - opens GIS). It is tempting to see the mosque as part of the planning for the heart of the new city, and by the 9th century it lay at the centre of a thriving metropolis. The city was planned, with a street system and a carefully managed water supply with numerous canals and reservoirs in each district (Williams forthcoming). It seems likely that the new status of Merv, coupled with new ideas and beliefs that identified the need for public



Figure 6: A short introductory film about Merv

Switch to the Turkmen version







Data Papers

Burdale: An Anglian Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds (Data Paper)



Iulian D Richards* and Steve Roskams*

*Department of Archaeology, University of York, UK. julian.richards@york.ac.uk (0000-0003-3938-899X) / steve.roskams@york.ac.uk

Cite this as: Richards, J., and Roskams, S. (2013), Burdale: An Anglian Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds (Data Paper), Internet Archaeology, (35), doi:10.11141/ia.35.8

Dataset Location

This dataset has been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. doi: 10.5284/1021540

Referee

Referee statement by Gabor Thomas

Dataset Content

The Burdale digital archive (Richards and Roskams 2013) comprises a broad range of primary and secondary data derived from fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. It complements the summary report published as Richards and Roskams (2012).

Full stratigraphic reports are downloadable for each season of excavation and can be related to the sequence of CAD plans also available. These can, in turn, be set within the wider site map derived from aerial photography and geophysical survey. Final reports are available for the pottery, spindlewhorls, and worked bone and antler (Ashby 2013). Other finds are simply listed in the finds databases, split by excavation year, with some preliminary notes on the ironwork included in the investigative conservation reports. The non-ferrous finds assemblage was largely missing, apart from a small number of topsoil finds recovered during metal detector surveys. Given the alleged wealth of the site, and the interest in it from 'nighthawks' we have to assume that unfortunately, most of the coinage and copper alloy metalwork has been collected from the ploughsoil over many years and is in private hands or has been sold for profit. In common with other Yorkshire sites Burdale produced very little early medieval pottery but this is likely to be a real absence rather than a product of recovery bias. The animal bone assemblage (Richardson 2010) is one of the most important elements of the archive. Over 300 images are also presented, split by year of excavation.

The file downloads are organised in 3 groups; those relating to the whole project and those specifically related to excavations in 2006 (BUR06) or 2007 (BUR07).





Transparent refereeing



Figure 6: The Burdale project: a team effort!

Acknowledgements

On-site direction was undertaken by Steve Roskams, with additional supervision by Madeleine Hummler, Steve Dobson and Ben Gourley. Initial interest in the site was prompted by Cath Neal's doctoral research. Metal detecting support was provided by Mark Ainsley, Geoff Bambrook, Ian Postlethwaite, and colleagues in *Historia Detectum*. Michael Charno, Eric Thurston and Thomas Mountain provided CAD support. Mags Felter and Ian Panter at <u>York Archaeological Trust</u> undertook the finds conservation, and Tony Austin and Elizabeth Jelley catalogued the finds. Eleanor Blakelock examined the ironwork, and Steve Ashby the bone and antierwork. Permission to carry out the fieldwork was granted by Lester Bell, tenant farmer, and by the landowner, the Right Honourable Michael Willoughby (now Lord Middleton) and the Birdsall Estate Company.

Funding

The fieldwork at Burdale was undertaken as part of University of York training excavations and was funded by the University of York.

Referee Statement

Gabor Thomas, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, UK.

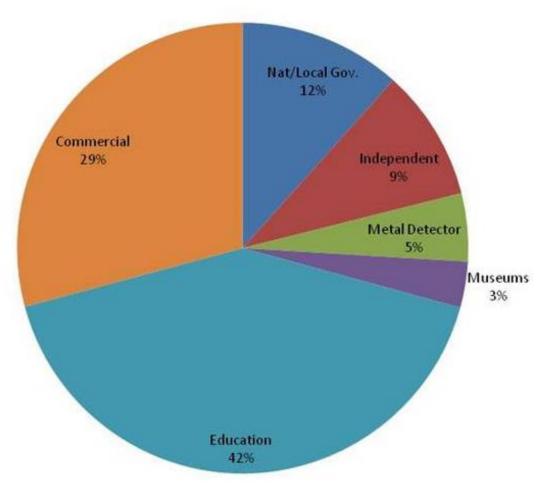
Cite this as: Thomas, G. 'Referee Statement' in Richards, J., and Roskams, S. (2013). Burdale: An Anglian Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds (Data Paper). Internet Archaeology, (35). doi:10.11141/ia.35.8

The site of Burdale on the Yorkshire Wolds lies within one of the most intensively investigated archaeological landscapes in northern England. In the immediate catchment can be found the internationally important sites of Wharram Percy and West Heslerton, augmented by a cluster of other settlements identified through aerial reconnaissance and metal-detecting of which Cottam and Cowlam have previously been investigated under the ambit of the same University of York project targeting Anglian settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds. The importance of the dataset thus lies in its contribution to a broader programme of research whose cumulative results have the potential to generate something approaching a holistic view of landscape change in an English micro-region over the first millennium AD.



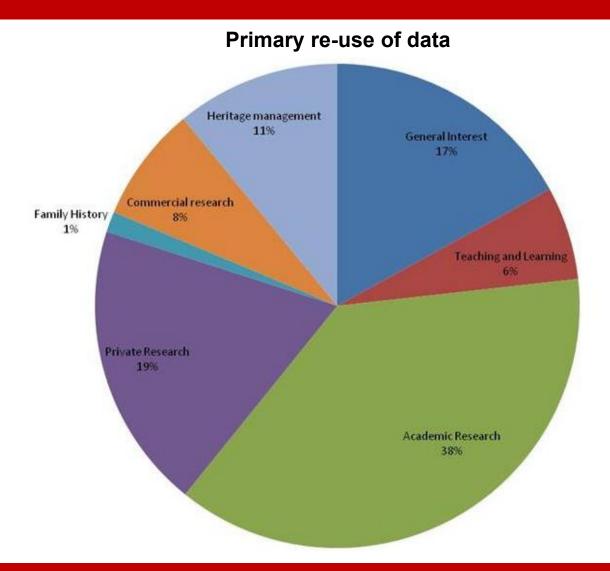
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